



& ARCHIVES

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Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society

Annual Report 2017

President's Report

The past year has been another busy year for the Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society (LCHCS) and its major project, the operation of the Lake Country Museum and Archives. The LCHCS is supported financially by the District of Lake Country and for this we are appreciative.



The Museum rotates exhibits at the Museum and at numerous satellite locations. We maintain an active Internet presence through our website, Blog, Facebook page and YouTube channel. Other elements of the Museum's outreach program are the *Lake Country: Origins in Time and Place Teaching Guide and Student Book*, the Heritage Driving Tour, the ongoing History Pins project and community lectures.

In this past year we partnered with UBCO on two projects, both initiatives of our archivist, Laura Neame. The UBC Library Digital Initiative digitized our extensive and valuable Rainbow Ranche collection. The second, a photograph digitization project, makes available on-line elements of our photograph collections. A third initiative, made possible by a Canada 150 grant from the provincial government and the support of the DLC and the OKIB, was to erect five two-sided heritage markers at major intersections along the rail trail, the aim being to interpret the history of the area to visitors and residents alike. A fourth project is a forty-page booklet featuring transportation in the Central and North Okanagan, focusing on the operation of the CN railway. This book is intended to be a local history curriculum resource for students in SD 22 and 23.

This last year we engaged two Capstone teams from UBCO Faculty Of Management to assist in developing a business plan to present to Charles Fipke that could see a diamond museum and cultural centre built on Main Street, providing us with a new purpose-built facility.

Directors held two strategy meetings late in 2017 and decided on a number of goals for 2018 and beyond. The primary goal is to increase annual income over the next two years by diversifying revenue streams and establishing more sustainable sources of funding in order to support one full-time equivalent FTE staff position. Having one FTE staff will make us eligible for operating grants from the federal government and will allow the Museum to increase programming and develop our marketing and social media strategy. We will focus on developing public programming that generates income, expanding our collaboration with businesses and organizations in activities with fund raising potential, assigning one of our summer students to a marketing function, and continuing to develop digital content on the web site. A Capstone team has been engaged that has suggested other means of raising money, including renovating and expanding the annex to allow for operation of a year-round café and coffee house.

I thank Carol Thomson, who is retiring from the Board, for her wonderful work on developing and maintaining our website. Over the last nine years she has devoted thousands of hours to this project and has posted 460 blogs that, taken together, provide a remarkable historical record of Lake Country. Happy retirement Carol.

Duane Thomson, President
Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society

Lake Country Museum and Archives

By the Numbers

A group of
25
dedicated volunteers
contributes on average
3000
hours annually.

Most of the
8500
archives and artifacts
that are part of the Museum's
collection have been donated by
local residents.

More than
2250
audience members
engaged through
a variety of programming,
including exhibitions,
lectures, and
workshops.





Archival Report

The photographic record of Lake Country has been a major focus of Archival activities over the past year. There are over 3,700 recorded images in our collection, almost all of Lake Country and its people. Here are two of them.

The first photo is from the collection donated by Mary Carne (White). Mary and her sister Nancy were the daughters of orchardists living on Okanagan Centre Road East. Mary was born ca. 1928. Mary and her sister attended Winfield Elementary School, then transferred to Oyama for high school, as there was no high school in Winfield. She took excellent photos with her box camera, and it is due to her that we have a good record of life in the Lake Country area, and especially its young people in the late 1930's and the 40's.

The photo, taken ca. 1943, shows Mary White, Margaret McCarthy and Dora Holitzki, all Winfield girls, by the school bus that drove them to Oyama School and back. The driver was Mr. Hall, also a teacher at the school.

The second photo is of Slim Haugen. Slim was a life-long cowboy, who worked as a ranch hand at the Eldorado Ranch circa 1940. This picture was taken at the Ranch. He was friends with Aubrey Stark, son of the Ranch Manager, and they used to go hunting in the hills east of the Eldorado. The ranch is still in existence today, though much reduced in size, as most of the land is now the Kelowna Airport.

Slim worked at Douglas Lake, then Alkali Lake, then in 1949 worked as a farrier, and eventually as Park Warden, until his retirement in 1982. He came back to an area of the world he loved, and raised horses at his farm on Reiswig Road until his death in 1999. Thanks to a friend, Randy Nagel, we are in receipt of a number of photographs and other memorabilia.

Laura Neame, Archivist
Lake Country Museum and Archives



Curatorial Report

The LCMA has a collection of more than 4,500 artifacts that are on display or in storage and rotated on exhibit, the majority of which have been donated by local residents.

Once again, in 2017 we have been fortunate to receive a number of interesting objects thanks to the generosity of our donors. A few of the larger acquisitions include:

- A replica of a Swanson Sprayer – a 1/5 scale of the original;
- A working Gestetner – an off-set printing, or duplicating, machine; and
- An antique nickel plated wood cooking stove.



In addition, Vernon artist Bob Kingsmill donated an original painting done by the late Kelowna artist Mary Bull of the cabin in which Father Pandosy had lived. It is considered by other artists to be one of Mary Bull's finest works and is currently on display in the Anne Land room.

Other artifacts already in the collection include objects relative to the Okanagan First Nations, histories of the orchard, wine, and ranching industries, turn of the century living, and items from the early Japanese community. The outdoor exhibits include an antique pleasure boat, farm wagons, ploughs, and the 1906 Wentworth Cabin.

It is important to the LCHCS to make historical resources as accessible to the community as possible. We are grateful for the various satellite exhibition spaces located in:

- The Oyama Hall and Community Club;
- George Elliot Secondary School;
- The Lake Country Community Complex; and
- The Lake Country Municipal Hall.

The permanent exhibits at the Museum include gallery areas featuring Ranching and Blacksmithing, Tools, Orchards and Packinghouses, Irrigation, the Harvey Insect Collection, Lake Country's Schools, and the General Store.

Dan Bruce, Curator
Lake Country Museum and Archives



Projects

Heritage Markers

Future users of the Okanagan Rail Trail through Lake Country will discover the recent history of the area and Okanagan Indigenous culture as they walk or cycle along the corridor. Five interpretive markers have been completed and will be erected in the spring of 2018 at pullouts near McCarthy Road, Woodsdale Road, Ribbleworth Waterfall, and at two spots on the Oyama isthmus. The project, which is a collaborative effort between the LCHCS and the Okanagan Indian Band, was made possible by the *British Columbia | Canada 150: Celebrating B.C. Communities and their Contributions to Canada* grant program. Don McNair was the designer and principal researcher of these panels.



Rainbow Ranche Collection Digitization

The LCMA in collaboration with the UBC Library Digital Initiatives has published online more than 1,380 items that are a part of the Rainbow Ranche Collection on the UBC Open Collections public access portal. The main focus of the project, completed over one year through generous funding from the *Central Okanagan Foundation* and the *Irving K Barber Learning Centre*, was to ensure access to primary source material while protecting the original documents through digitization. The reach of the project has been greater than expected as usage statistics on the Open Collections website indicate views and downloads range from Winfield all the way to India, Japan and even Russia. The LCMA would like to thank the family of the late James Goldie who generously donated the collection in 2013.

You can visit the Rainbow Ranche Collection online at: <https://open.library.ubc.ca/collections/rainbow>



Staff

The LCMA welcomes Julie Trewartha, as our new Manager, who started her position at the beginning of May, 16 hours per week. Julie has a strong background in the non-profit and cultural sector. Along with her husband and young son, Julie moved from Ottawa to Lake Country in order to enjoy the outdoor lifestyle, and to experience what the Okanagan has to offer.



We thank Shannon for her diligence and initiatives in her more than seven years as Manager.

We are pleased to have Dan Bruce continue in his position as part-time Curator three days per month.

The LCMA is open six days a week, 10 am to 4 pm, from the end of May to Labour Day weekend thanks to our summer students. This is made possible through partial funding from the Canada Summer Jobs program. In 2017 the Curatorial Assistant position was held by Katherine Woolsey and the Archival Assistant position was held by Danielle Tataryn.



Katherine Woolsey & Danielle Tataryn

Board of Directors

Duane Thomson, President
Eleanor Geen, Vice President
Tom Turner, Treasurer
Lynne Blake, Secretary
Laura Neame, Director/Archivist
Rosemary Carter, Director
Ann Nott, Director
Carol Thomson, Director/Webmaster
Elaine Pybus, Director
Robert Hayes, Director
Geoffrey Broughton, Director
Richard Gibbons, Past President

Events & Exhibits

The LCMA provides guided tours and educational programming to school groups, childcare facilities, and seniors centres. Our Curator, Archivist, and qualified LCHCS Board Members are out in the community offering presentations on a wide-variety of local history topics to organizations in both Lake Country and the greater Okanagan.

A few highlights from 2017 include:

Heritage Week

The LCMA was once again part of activities planned for Heritage Week featuring the theme, *My Canada! My BC! My Okanagan!* Participants could share their experiences during the celebration by using #MyOkanaganis.



Children's Festival

The LCMA brought its very popular costume booth for participants to try on old –fashioned outfits to take memorable, social media worthy photos!

Canada Day

The LCHCS organized a speakers corner featuring talks by many long-standing residents given at a booth titled Our Lake Country HISTORIES during Canada 150 celebrations at Swalwell Park.

Satellite Exhibitions

The LCMA continues to present satellite exhibits at Municipal Hall, installed by our dedicated volunteer Karen Gibbons. The two photos are of a vintage games and toys display (left), and one celebrating Canada's 150th year of Confederation (right).



Arnold Award

The LCHCS's Arnold Award is named in honour of Jane and Gilbert Arnold, two Lake Country residents. The 2017 recipient of the Arnold Award is Alexandra McAllister, a recent graduate of George Elliot Secondary School in Lake Country.

Language and cultural diversity are of great interest to Alexandra. She has a natural affinity for languages studying both French and Italian and has served as a peer tutor to international students in their English Learning Language class. Alexandra plans to pursue a degree in Arts and the Social Sciences with a specialty in International relations and development.

As the recipient of the Arnold Award, Alexandra follows Alex Ireland (2016), Lauren Kim (2015), Julie Klingner-Jardine (2014), Rebecca Watson (2013), Lucas Anderson (2012), Robert Abel (2011), Kayla Stinn (2010), Julianne Marriott (2009), Diane Kalis (2008), and Leland Crowther (2007).



Valued Partnership

The LCHCS is grateful for the support of the Okanagan Regional Library branches located in Winfield and Oyama.

In 2017 we worked together to provide children's workshops for the Summer Reading Club. The theme for the program was *Walk on the Wild Side* and the LCMA offered a *Mini-Beasts and Super Bugs* activity at both branches in July and August based on our Ed Harvey insect collection. The children had the opportunity to look at specimens brought in from the Museum's permanent exhibition, learning about bugs and their super powers, such as strength, flight, and camouflage. They then had a chance to design their own creepy-crawly using a variety of craft materials.



Gwen Cash Collection, courtesy of
Derek Cash

The LCHCS also hosted its annual fall Lecture Series at the Winfield branch. The first talk was given on October 11th about the WWI Vernon Internment Camp, 1914-1920. The speaker was Don McNair, a graphic artist and editor, who has spent the last two years researching the topic. He gave an extensive history of those who were detained at the camp, the reasons for their detention and what happened to them after the war. He illustrated his talk with photos from the camp and of the families interned there. His talk was followed by a lively question and answer session.

The second talk was given October 25th on the history of Gibson House located in Kopje Regional Park by pioneer resident of Lake Country, Rosemary Carter who is an expert on the topic as the house was built for George Gibson, Rosemary's grandfather, in 1913. She spoke about the house from its early days as a family home to the present as a heritage treasure. Rosemary also brought several artifacts from the house which had special memories for her.

The LCHCS looks forward to future collaborative efforts with the Okanagan Regional Library branches serving our community.

Financials

Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society 2017 Year End Income Statement

Revenue

Donations	\$6,560
Grants	75,933
Other Income	4,252

Total Revenue	\$86,745
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Expenses

Employment	\$44,036
Telephone and Internet	1,463
Insurance	2,578
Projects	23,174
Program and Exhibits	5,756
GST Expense	966
Depreciation	2,481

Total Expenses	\$80,454
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Notes:

Some of the expenses for projects funded in 2017 will carry on to 2018

Project expenses were for :

- Rail Trail Heritage Markers*
- Rainbow Ranche Digitization Project*
- Photo Digitization*
- Transportation Booklet*



Our Purpose

To collect, preserve, describe , exhibit and act as a repository for materials and artifacts pertaining to the establishment of natural and cultural materials of interest and significance to the residents of Lake Country.

To promote and enhance education and access opportunities through exhibits, events, publications, web presence, and other means.

To maintain and operate the Museum building which houses the Museum exhibits and archives.

To provide leadership on heritage issues as they involve Lake Country, including the heritage value of buildings, the naming of parks and roads, and the recognition of heritage assets.

Looking Ahead

In the fall of 2017 the LCHCS contracted a graphic artist to help us update the Museum logo using a more modern font that complements the original artwork, in an effort to create a more contemporary look and feel.

In addition , the LCHCS Board of Directors completed a strategic planning exercise in order to set a few achievable goals over the next two years for its main project focus the LCMA. We are happy to share these with you here and welcome any additional input from our stakeholders.



Strategic Plan

2018 - 2020

Goal #1

Increase annual income by diversifying revenue streams and establishing more sustainable sources of funding in order to support one full-time equivalent staff position.

Goal #2

Increase public awareness of the Museum, its offerings and accomplishments by developing a marketing and communications plan that utilizes a variety of tactics.

Goal #3

Improve the Museum's ability to preserve and make accessible heritage resources to the community by expanding its focus on collections, both in the management and acquisition of.

Thank you for your support!

British Columbia | Canada 150
BC History Digitization Program
BC Museums Association
Canada Summer Jobs
Central Okanagan Foundation
District of Lake Country
Heritage BC
Irving K. Barber Learning Centre
Okanagan Indian Band
Okanagan Region Historical Digitization Project
Okanagan Regional Library
UBC Okanagan Campus Library

Koyama Farm Centennial Planning Committee
Yvonne Mellum and the Prairie Folks Fruit Stand

Sharon Brooks, OK Patio Café



The LCMA would like to thank the many generous donors who are helping our collection continue to grow, with contributions of primary documents, photographs, and objects important to Lake Country's history and development. Please continue to keep the Museum in mind as a place to give your valued treasures that you no longer wish to keep.

The Museum could not operate without the group of wonderful volunteers who generously give their time and effort toward all the various functions of the organization, including archives, collections, facilities, lecture series, oral histories, school field trips, tours, and events, to name a few!

The LCHCS and the LCMA thanks you for your continued dedication.

If you wish to make a donation or to be a volunteer, please don't hesitate to contact us by email at lcmuseum@shaw.ca or by phone at 250-766-0111.

